

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 8, 2012  
AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 13, 2012  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2011  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 246**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Wieckowski**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Bonilla, and Williams)**  
*(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)*

February 3, 2011

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An act to repeal and amend Sections 17053.80 and 23623 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to tax, to take effect immediately, tax levy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 246, as amended, Wieckowski. Income taxes: credit: hiring.

The Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law ~~authorize~~ *allow* various credits against the taxes imposed by those laws, including a credit for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2009, in the amount of \$3,000 for each full-time employee hired by a qualified employer, with a maximum cumulative credit of \$400,000,000 for all taxable years. Those laws define “qualified employer” as a taxpayer that employed 20 or fewer employees as of the last day of the preceding taxable year.

This bill would, under both laws, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, redefine “qualified employer” to mean a disabled veteran business enterprise, a disadvantaged business enterprise, a microbusiness, or a small business, as defined. This bill would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, allow a credit in

the amount of \$4,500 for each net increase in full-time employees, who are paid qualified wages of less than \$16 per hour and a credit in the amount of \$9,100 for each net increase in full-time employees, who are paid qualified wages of \$16 or more per hour, as provided.

This bill would include a change in state statute that would result in a taxpayer paying a higher tax within the meaning of Section 3 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, and thus would require for passage the approval of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the membership of each house of the Legislature.

This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 17053.80 of the Revenue and Taxation
- 2 Code, as added by Section 3 of Chapter 10 of the Third
- 3 Extraordinary Session of the Statutes of 2009, is repealed.
- 4 SEC. 2. Section 17053.80 of the Revenue and Taxation Code,
- 5 as added by Section 3 of Chapter 17 of the Third Extraordinary
- 6 Session of the Statutes of 2009, is amended to read:
- 7 17053.80. (a) (1) For each taxable year beginning on or after
- 8 January 1, 2009, and before January 1, 2012, there shall be allowed
- 9 as a credit against the “net tax,” as defined in Section 17039, three
- 10 thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each net increase in qualified
- 11 full-time employees, as specified in subdivision (c), hired during
- 12 the taxable year by a qualified employer.
- 13 (2) For each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2012,
- 14 there shall be allowed as a credit against the “net tax,” as defined
- 15 in Section 17039, an amount as specified in subparagraphs (A),
- 16 (B), and (C) for each net increase in qualified full-time employees,
- 17 or portion thereof, as specified in subdivision (c), for the taxable
- 18 year by ~~the~~ a qualified employer.
- 19 (A) For each net increase in qualified full-time employees, or
- 20 portion thereof, who are paid qualified wages of less than sixteen
- 21 dollars (\$16) per hour, or an equivalent amount if the qualified
- 22 wages are paid other than on an hourly basis, four thousand five
- 23 hundred dollars (\$4,500).
- 24 (B) For each net increase in qualified full-time employees, or
- 25 portion thereof, who are paid qualified wages of sixteen dollars

1 (\$16) per hour or more, or an equivalent amount if paid other than  
2 on an hourly basis, nine thousand one hundred dollars (\$9,100).

3 (C) If the net increase in qualified full-time employees for a  
4 taxable year, as determined under subdivision (c), is less than the  
5 sum of the net increase in qualified full-time employees determined  
6 under subparagraphs (A) and (B), the amount of credit allowed  
7 shall equal the net increase in qualified full-time employees  
8 determined under subdivision (c) multiplied by the amount under  
9 subparagraph (A) or (B), depending on which net increase in  
10 qualified full-time employees calculated under that subparagraph  
11 is greater than zero.

12 (D) A credit shall only be allowed if the qualified employer has  
13 a net increase in qualified full-time employees for the taxable year,  
14 as determined under subdivision (c).

15 (b) For purposes of this section:

16 (1) “Acquired” includes ~~any~~ a gift, inheritance, transfer incident  
17 to divorce, or any other transfer, whether or not for consideration.

18 (2) “Qualified full-time employee” means:

19 (A) A qualified employee who was paid qualified wages during  
20 the taxable year by the qualified employer for services of not less  
21 than an average of 35 hours per week.

22 (B) A qualified employee who was a salaried employee and  
23 was paid compensation during the taxable year for full-time  
24 employment, within the meaning of Section 515 of the Labor Code,  
25 by the qualified employer.

26 (3) A “qualified employee” shall not include any of the  
27 following:

28 (A) An employee certified as a qualified employee in an  
29 enterprise zone designated in accordance with Chapter 12.8  
30 (commencing with Section 7070) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the  
31 Government Code.

32 (B) An employee certified as a qualified disadvantaged  
33 individual in a manufacturing enhancement area designated in  
34 accordance with Section 7073.8 of the Government Code.

35 (C) An employee certified as a qualified employee in a targeted  
36 tax area designated in accordance with Section 7097 of the  
37 Government Code.

38 (D) An employee certified as a qualified disadvantaged  
39 individual or a qualified displaced employee in a local agency  
40 military base recovery area (LAMBRA) designated in accordance

1 with Chapter 12.97 (commencing with Section 7105) of Division  
2 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

3 (E) An employee whose wages are included in calculating any  
4 other credit allowed under this part.

5 (4) (A) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2009,  
6 and before January 1, 2012, “qualified employer” means a taxpayer  
7 that, as of the last day of the preceding taxable year, employed a  
8 total of 20 or fewer employees.

9 (B) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2012,  
10 “qualified employer” means an employer that as of the last day of  
11 the preceding taxable year and the last day of the current taxable  
12 year, was any of the following:

13 (i) A “disabled veteran business enterprise” as defined in  
14 paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 999 of the Military and  
15 Veterans Code.

16 (ii) A “disadvantaged business enterprise” as defined in  
17 subdivision (f) of *Section 2051* of the Public Contract Code.

18 (iii) A “microbusiness” as defined in paragraph (2) of  
19 subdivision (d) of Section 14837 of the Government Code.

20 (iv) A “small business” as defined in paragraph (1) of  
21 subdivision (d) of Section 14837 of the Government Code.

22 (5) “Qualified wages” means wages subject to Division 6  
23 (commencing with Section 13000) of the Unemployment Insurance  
24 Code.

25 (6) “Annual full-time equivalent” means either of the following:

26 (A) In the case of a full-time employee paid hourly qualified  
27 wages, “annual full-time equivalent” means the total number of  
28 hours worked for the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified employer* by the employee  
29 (not to exceed 1,820 hours per employee) divided by 1,820.

30 (B) In the case of a salaried full-time employee, “annual  
31 full-time equivalent” means the total number of weeks worked for  
32 the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified employer* by the employee divided by 52.

33 (c) The net increase in qualified full-time employees of a  
34 qualified employer shall be determined as provided by this  
35 subdivision:

36 (1) (A) The net increase in qualified full-time employees shall  
37 be determined on an annual full-time equivalent basis by  
38 subtracting from the amount determined in subparagraph (C) the  
39 amount determined in subparagraph (B).

1 (B) The total number of qualified full-time employees employed  
2 in the preceding taxable year by the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified employer*  
3 and by ~~any~~ a trade or business acquired by the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified*  
4 *employer* during the current taxable year.

5 (C) The total number of qualified full-time employees employed  
6 in the current taxable year by the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified employer* and  
7 by ~~any~~ a trade or business acquired during the current taxable year.

8 (2) For ~~taxpayers who~~ *a qualified employer that first commences*  
9 *commences* doing business in this state during the taxable year,  
10 the number of qualified full-time employees for the immediately  
11 preceding prior taxable year shall be zero.

12 (d) In the case where the credit allowed by this section exceeds  
13 the “net tax,” the excess may be carried over to reduce the “net  
14 tax” in the following year, and succeeding seven years if necessary,  
15 until the credit is exhausted.

16 (e) ~~Any~~ A deduction otherwise allowed under this part for  
17 qualified wages shall not be reduced by the amount of the credit  
18 allowed under this section.

19 (f) For purposes of this section:

20 (1) All employees of the trades or businesses that are treated as  
21 related under either Section 267, 318, or 707 of the Internal  
22 Revenue Code shall be treated as employed by a single taxpayer.

23 (2) In determining whether the taxpayer has first commenced  
24 doing business in this state during the taxable year, the provisions  
25 of subdivision (f) of Section 17276.20, without application of  
26 paragraph (7) of that subdivision, shall apply.

27 (g) (1) (A) ~~Credit~~ A *credit* under this section and Section 23623  
28 shall be allowed only for credits claimed on timely filed original  
29 returns received by the Franchise Tax Board on or before the  
30 cut-off date established by the Franchise Tax Board.

31 (B) For purposes of this paragraph, the cut-off date shall be the  
32 last day of the calendar quarter within which the Franchise Tax  
33 Board estimates it will have received timely filed original returns  
34 claiming credits under this section and Section 23623 that  
35 cumulatively total four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000)  
36 for all taxable years.

37 (2) The date a return is received shall be determined by the  
38 Franchise Tax Board.

39 (3) (A) The determinations of the Franchise Tax Board with  
40 respect to the cut-off date, the date a return is received, and whether

1 a return has been timely filed for purposes of this subdivision may  
2 not be reviewed in ~~any~~ an administrative or judicial proceeding.

3 (B) ~~Any~~—A disallowance of a credit claimed due to a  
4 determination under this subdivision, including the application of  
5 the limitation specified in paragraph (1), shall be treated as a  
6 mathematical error appearing on the return. ~~Any~~ An amount of tax  
7 resulting from such disallowance may be assessed by the Franchise  
8 Tax Board in the same manner as provided by Section 19051.

9 (4) The Franchise Tax Board shall periodically provide notice  
10 on its Internet Web site with respect to the amount of credit under  
11 this section and Section 23623 claimed on timely filed original  
12 returns received by the Franchise Tax Board.

13 (h) (1) The Franchise Tax Board may prescribe rules,  
14 guidelines, or procedures necessary or appropriate to carry out the  
15 purposes of this section, including ~~any~~ guidelines regarding the  
16 limitation on total credits allowable under this section and Section  
17 23623 and guidelines necessary to avoid the application of  
18 paragraph (2) of subdivision (f) through split-ups, shell  
19 corporations, partnerships, tiered ownership structures, or  
20 otherwise.

21 (2) Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of  
22 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code does not apply to  
23 ~~any~~ a standard, criterion, procedure, determination, rule, notice,  
24 or guideline established or issued by the Franchise Tax Board  
25 pursuant to this section.

26 (i) This section shall remain in effect only until December 1 of  
27 the calendar year after the year of the cut-off date, and as of that  
28 December 1 is repealed.

29 SEC. 3. Section 23623 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, as  
30 added by Section 8 of Chapter 10 of the Third Extraordinary  
31 Session of the Statutes of 2009, is repealed.

32 SEC. 4. Section 23623 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, as  
33 added by Section 8 of Chapter 17 of the Third Extraordinary  
34 Session of the Statutes of 2009, is amended to read:

35 23623. (a) (1) For each taxable year beginning on or after  
36 January 1, 2009, and before January 1, 2012, there shall be allowed  
37 as a credit against the “tax,” as defined in Section 23036, three  
38 thousand dollars (\$3,000) for each net increase in qualified  
39 full-time employees, as specified in subdivision (c), hired during  
40 the taxable year by a qualified employer.

1 (2) For each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2012,  
2 there shall be allowed as a credit against the “tax,” as defined in  
3 Section ~~47039~~ 23036, an amount as specified in subparagraphs  
4 (A), (B), and (C) for each net increase in qualified full-time  
5 employees, or portion thereof, as specified in subdivision (c), for  
6 the taxable year by ~~the~~ a qualified employer.

7 (A) For each net increase in qualified full-time employees, or  
8 portion thereof, who are paid qualified wages of less than sixteen  
9 dollars (\$16) per hour, or an equivalent amount if the qualified  
10 wages are paid other than on an hourly basis, four thousand five  
11 hundred dollars (\$4,500).

12 (B) For each net increase in qualified full-time employees, or  
13 portion thereof, who are paid qualified wages of sixteen dollars  
14 (\$16) per hour or more, or an equivalent amount if paid other than  
15 on an hourly basis, nine thousand one hundred dollars (\$9,100).

16 (C) If the net increase in qualified full-time employees for a  
17 taxable year, as determined under subdivision (c), is less than the  
18 sum of the net increase in qualified full-time employees determined  
19 under subparagraphs (A) and (B), the amount of credit allowed  
20 shall equal the net increase in qualified full-time employees  
21 determined under subdivision (c) multiplied by the amount under  
22 subparagraph (A) or (B), depending on which net increase in  
23 qualified full-time employees calculated under that subparagraph  
24 is greater than zero.

25 (D) A credit shall only be allowed if the qualified employer has  
26 a net increase in qualified full-time employees for the taxable year,  
27 as determined under subdivision (c).

28 (b) For purposes of this section:

29 (1) “Acquired” includes ~~any~~ a gift, inheritance, transfer incident  
30 to divorce, or any other transfer, whether or not for consideration.

31 (2) “Qualified full-time employee” means:

32 (A) A qualified employee who was paid qualified wages during  
33 the taxable year by the qualified employer for services of not less  
34 than an average of 35 hours per week.

35 (B) A qualified employee who was a salaried employee and  
36 was paid compensation during the taxable year for full-time  
37 employment, within the meaning of Section 515 of the Labor Code,  
38 by the qualified employer.

39 (3) A “qualified employee” shall not include any of the  
40 following:

1 (A) An employee certified as a qualified employee in an  
 2 enterprise zone designated in accordance with Chapter 12.8  
 3 (commencing with Section 7070) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the  
 4 Government Code.

5 (B) An employee certified as a qualified disadvantaged  
 6 individual in a manufacturing enhancement area designated in  
 7 accordance with Section 7073.8 of the Government Code.

8 (C) An employee certified as a qualified employee in a targeted  
 9 tax area designated in accordance with Section 7097 of the  
 10 Government Code.

11 (D) An employee certified as a qualified disadvantaged  
 12 individual or a qualified displaced employee in a local agency  
 13 military base recovery area (LAMBRA) designated in accordance  
 14 with Chapter 12.97 (commencing with Section 7105) of Division  
 15 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

16 (E) An employee whose wages are included in calculating any  
 17 other credit allowed under this part.

18 (4) (A) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2009,  
 19 and before January 1, 2012, “qualified employer” means a taxpayer  
 20 that, as of the last day of the preceding taxable year, employed a  
 21 total of 20 or fewer employees.

22 (B) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2012,  
 23 “qualified employer” means an employer that as of the last day of  
 24 the preceding taxable year and the last day of the current taxable  
 25 year was any of the following:

26 (i) A “disabled veteran business enterprise” as defined in  
 27 paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 999 of the Military and  
 28 Veterans Code.

29 (ii) A “disadvantaged business enterprise” as defined in  
 30 subdivision (f) of *Section 2051* of the Public Contract Code.

31 (iii) A “microbusiness” as defined in paragraph (2) of  
 32 subdivision (d) of Section 14837 of the Government Code.

33 (iv) A “small business” as defined in paragraph (1) of  
 34 subdivision (d) of Section 14837 of the Government Code.

35 (5) “Qualified wages” means wages subject to Division 6  
 36 (commencing with Section 13000) of the Unemployment Insurance  
 37 Code.

38 (6) “Annual full-time equivalent” means either of the following:

39 (A) In the case of a full-time employee paid hourly qualified  
 40 wages, “annual full-time equivalent” means the total number of

1 hours worked for the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified employer* by the employee  
2 (not to exceed 1,820 hours per employee) divided by 1,820.

3 (B) In the case of a salaried full-time employee, “annual  
4 full-time equivalent” means the total number of weeks worked for  
5 the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified employer* by the employee divided by 52.

6 (c) The net increase in qualified full-time employees of a  
7 qualified employer shall be determined as provided by this  
8 subdivision:

9 (1) (A) The net increase in qualified full-time employees shall  
10 be determined on an annual full-time equivalent basis by  
11 subtracting from the amount determined in subparagraph (C) the  
12 amount determined in subparagraph (B).

13 (B) The total number of qualified full-time employees employed  
14 in the preceding taxable year by the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified employer*  
15 and by ~~any~~ a trade or business acquired by the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified*  
16 *employer* during the current taxable year.

17 (C) The total number of qualified full-time employees employed  
18 in the current taxable year by the ~~taxpayer~~ *qualified employer* and  
19 by ~~any~~ a trade or business acquired during the current taxable year.

20 (2) For ~~taxpayers who~~ *a qualified employer that first commence*  
21 *commences* doing business in this state during the taxable year,  
22 the number of qualified full-time employees for the immediately  
23 preceding prior taxable year shall be zero.

24 (d) In the case where the credit allowed by this section exceeds  
25 the “tax,” the excess may be carried over to reduce the “tax” in  
26 the following year, and succeeding seven years if necessary, until  
27 the credit is exhausted.

28 (e) ~~Any~~ A deduction otherwise allowed under this part for  
29 qualified wages shall not be reduced by the amount of the credit  
30 allowed under this section.

31 (f) For purposes of this section:

32 (1) All employees of the trades or businesses that are treated as  
33 related under either Section 267, 318, or 707 of the Internal  
34 Revenue Code shall be treated as employed by a single taxpayer.

35 (2) In determining whether the taxpayer has first commenced  
36 doing business in this state during the taxable year, the provisions  
37 of subdivision (g) of Section 24416.20, without application of  
38 paragraph (7) of that subdivision, shall apply.

39 (g) (1) (A) ~~Credit~~ A *credit* under this section and Section  
40 17053.80 shall be allowed only for credits claimed on timely filed

1 original returns received by the Franchise Tax Board on or before  
2 the cut-off date established by the Franchise Tax Board.

3 (B) For purposes of this paragraph, the cut-off date shall be the  
4 last day of the calendar quarter within which the Franchise Tax  
5 Board estimates it will have received timely filed original returns  
6 claiming credits under this section and Section 17053.80 that  
7 cumulatively total four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000)  
8 for all taxable years.

9 (2) The date a return is received shall be determined by the  
10 Franchise Tax Board.

11 (3) (A) The determinations of the Franchise Tax Board with  
12 respect to the cut-off date, the date a return is received, and whether  
13 a return has been timely filed for purposes of this subdivision may  
14 not be reviewed in ~~any~~ *an* administrative or judicial proceeding.

15 (B) ~~Any~~—A disallowance of a credit claimed due to a  
16 determination under this subdivision, including the application of  
17 the limitation specified in paragraph (1), shall be treated as a  
18 mathematical error appearing on the return. ~~Any~~ *An* amount of tax  
19 resulting from such disallowance may be assessed by the Franchise  
20 Tax Board in the same manner as provided by Section 19051.

21 (4) The Franchise Tax Board shall periodically provide notice  
22 on its Internet Web site with respect to the amount of credit under  
23 this section and Section 17053.80 claimed on timely filed original  
24 returns received by the Franchise Tax Board.

25 (h) (1) The Franchise Tax Board may prescribe rules,  
26 guidelines, or procedures necessary or appropriate to carry out the  
27 purposes of this section, including ~~any~~ guidelines regarding the  
28 limitation on total credits allowable under this section and Section  
29 17053.80 and guidelines necessary to avoid the application of  
30 paragraph (2) of subdivision (f) through split-ups, shell  
31 corporations, partnerships, tiered ownership structures, or  
32 otherwise.

33 (2) Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of  
34 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code does not apply to  
35 ~~any~~ *a* standard, criterion, procedure, determination, rule, notice,  
36 or guideline established or issued by the Franchise Tax Board  
37 pursuant to this section.

38 (i) This section shall remain in effect only until December 1 of  
39 the calendar year after the year of the cut-off date, and as of that  
40 December 1 is repealed.

1     SEC. 5. This act provides for a tax levy within the meaning of  
2     Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.

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